



Read-ahead information for the BVS meeting on Wednesday August 25, 2021

POC for the Virginia War Memorial Foundation: Pam Seay, President

Since the last BVS meeting, our focus has been on moving ahead with signature events while being prepared to take a step backwards if COVID indications dictate that.

*Sips on the Skyline*, scheduled for September 24, is our popular fund-and friend-raiser. This event allows us to thank our family of supporters and introduce the Memorial to a new generation and new community. Tickets are available on our website. We are grateful to our loyal sponsors who have come through with generous support to make this event happen. We welcome suggestions from BVS members as to potential attendees for this event. And of course, I hope to see you at the event.

Our *Leadership in America* lecture series was postponed during the construction of the C. Kenneth Wright Pavilion and then suspended during COVID. But, we are coming out of a five-year hiatus with a real bang. Well-known author Rick Atkinson who has written extensively about World War II, West Point, and now the American Revolution, will be our speaker on October 6 as we re-launch this popular series. A book signing and light reception will follow the talk.

Public commemorations for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 and for POW/MIA day are organized. As always, we are grateful for help from our colleagues at DVS for promoting these important public events.

Our next Veteran art show will open September 13. Maureen Stewart, a ten-year Air Force Veteran will be our featured artist. The Veterans Art Gallery is a natural extension of our popular Mighty Pen Project which has provided free creative writing seminars to veterans for the last eight years.

Stay tuned for more information about "War in Pieces", a premiere of four one-act plays written by Veterans as part of our Mighty Pen Project. Our collaboration with Richmond's Firehouse Theater was another COVID casualty for a year but these compelling plays are now in rehearsal and will be presented in October.

I have reported before about an upcoming exhibition, *Who They Were: Lives Worth Knowing*, which will profile thirty individuals whose names are engraved on our Shrine. We hope this exhibition will encourage not only visitation, but also gifts of collections to the Memorial so that we can provide more context and background for other individuals memorialized here. I am pleased, and relieved, to report that the funding for the exhibit and the accompanying video and the exhibition film is coming along.

Certainly our Livestreams, Teachers Institutes and adult learning programs are the mainstay of our offerings. We never forget that we offer all of these programs as a way to honor our military veterans and to help a growing audience recognize their valor and sacrifice.

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